AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims

Claim 1	-	Canceled
Claims 2-3	-	Currently Amended
Claim 4	-	Canceled
Claim 5	-	Currently Amended
Claim 6	-	Canceled
Claims 7-8	-	Currently Amended
Claims 9-10	-	Canceled
Claims 11-12	-	Currently Amended
Claims 13-14	-	Canceled

Claims

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) An aircraft servicing pit latch mechanism according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 3 wherein said one of said catch and latch members that is provided with said plurality of teeth is said latch member.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~An aircraft servicing pit latch mechanism according to Claim 2~~ In an aircraft servicing pit latch mechanism for holding and releasing a pit lid removably mounted atop a subsurface aircraft servicing pit, wherein said pit lid has an upper surface and an undersurface and said pit has an upright wall, and including a catch member depending from said underside of said pit lid and mounted for rotational movement relative thereto about a catch member axis, and a latch member located on said upright wall adjacent said catch member and engageable therewith, the improvement wherein one of said catch and latch members is provided with a plurality of vertically spaced teeth alternatively and selectively engageable by the other of said catch and latch members, and further including a spring that biases said catch member toward engagement with said latch member and a lever mounted for rotational movement on said pit lid for disengaging said catch member from said latch member.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) An aircraft servicing pit latch mechanism according to

~~Claim 1~~ Claim 3 comprising at least three of said vertically spaced teeth.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A latching mechanism according to ~~Claim 6~~ Claim 8 comprising at least three of said vertically spaced teeth.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A latching mechanism according to Claim 6~~ In a latching mechanism for a pit having an upright interior wall and buried beneath a surface across which aircraft travel and having a pit lid removably securable upon an upwardly facing seat atop said pit above said interior wall and in which a catch having a hook is suspended from said pit lid and mounted to said pit lid upon an axis for rotational movement toward and away from said pit wall, the improvement wherein a latch member having a plurality of vertically separated latching teeth directed toward said catch is mounted upon said pit wall, and further comprising a spring that biases said catch toward engagement with said latch member and a lever mounted for rotational movement on said pit lid for disengaging said catch from said latch member, whereby said catch is selectively and alternatively engageable with each of said latching teeth, depending upon the extent to which said pit lid is forced downwardly upon said seat.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A latch mechanism according to ~~Claim 10~~ Claim 12

comprising at least three of said vertically spaced teeth.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A latch mechanism according to Claim 10~~ A latch mechanism for a subsurface aircraft ground servicing chamber formed by a pit having an upright interior wall and a pit lid removably disposed atop said pit comprising: a catch member depending from said pit lid adjacent said wall and mounted to said pit lid for rotatable movement relative thereto about a catch axis of rotation, and a latching member mounted on said pit wall and having a plurality of vertically spaced teeth thereon facing said catch member, and said catch member has a hook facing said latching member, and said hook is alternatively engageable with each of said teeth, depending upon the extent to which said pit lid is pressed downwardly toward said pit, and further comprising a biasing spring that urges said catch member toward engagement with said latching member and a lever mounted for rotational movement on said pit lid for disengaging said catch member from said latching member.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)